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INFORMATION REPORT

Bulgaria

Railroad Plans and Movement of Troops

50X1-HUM

DATE DISTR. 28 May 1953

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. The Bulgarian government, by order of the Soviet government, completed plans for the widening of the Bulgarian state railroad between Ruse and Stalin and the railroad between Kolarovgrad and Karnobat.
2. Thus far there is no information whether work has started or whether the above railroad network will be widened and adapted to Soviet railroad lines. [redacted] during one month, especially toward the end of January 1953 a large movement of troops was noted in northern Bulgaria, especially at Kolarovgrad and Pleven. These troops proceeded in a direction of the Dobrudzha, equipped with motorized guns and vehicles.
3. Near Tolbukhin there are two motorized Soviet divisions. The headquarters of one is to be transferred to Pleven for the safety of air bases which are located in this region, such as Telish, Dolna Metropoliya, and Lovech.
4. There is a large number of military personnel of various ranks, but especially of the Soviet Air Force. Motorized units are in Sofia. These Soviets are constantly traveling between Sofia, Pleven, and Kolarovgrad. A staff of Soviet officers is attached to the staff of the army in Kolarovgrad.
5. A special guard was assigned to the Bulgarian state railroads for the sake of security. This is not a regular guard but a militia unit. These guard units are stationed at important railroad objectives which are of military significance such as bridges, tunnels, railroad stations of economic significance, etc. These guard units are under the Ministry of Defense.
6. Members of the Tayfun and DOSO organizations are trained to strengthen the guard of railroads. They are armed with submachine guns and are attached to the regular guard. Their duty is not to watch the objective, but to pursue saboteurs and resistance movements in the country. Such mixed units for guard and pursuit purposes have been created at the East Corps Defile (sic), the Podballanskatz, and the Baltanska railroad line between Dubovo and Turnovo. Such units are expected to be formed in all vulnerable places.

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